

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 265 – SB 1372**

February 13, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Prohibits the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) from prohibiting the importation into this state of a carcass, if importation of the carcass is otherwise permitted under state and federal law.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- Pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 70-1-206(a)(3), the Tennessee Fish and Wildlife Commission is directed to promulgate necessary rules, regulations, and proclamations and establish objectives within the state policy that will enable the TWRA to develop, manage and maintain sound programs of hunting, fishing, trapping and other wildlife-related outdoor recreational activities.
- The TWRA enforces the rules established by the commission.
- Pursuant TWRA rule 1660-01-15.02(1), no person may import, transport, or possess in Tennessee a cervid (includes, but is not limited to deer, mule, elk, etc.) carcass or carcass part from anywhere outside the state except as provided:
  - Meat that has bones removed;
  - Antlers, antlers attached to cleaned skull plates, or cleaned skulls;
  - Cleaned teeth;
  - Finished taxidermy and antler products; and
  - Hides and tanned products.
- This legislation establishes that such rules do not bind the importation of carcasses from other states.
- There are currently established diseases, such as Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD), which is prevalent in the western portion of Tennessee, where 12 counties have experienced at least one case of deer infected with CWD.
- Based on public information published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Tennessee has had more cases of deer infected with CWD than those states which border Tennessee; therefore, it is not estimated that this legislation will solely result in any increase in infestation to the point it alone impacts the number of licenses that the TWRA currently issues.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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